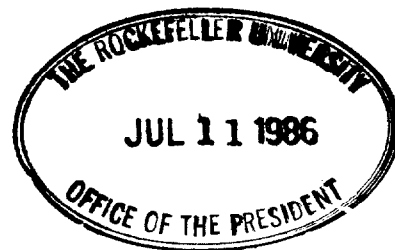


Bacterial Physiology Unit,
Harvard Medical School,
Boston, MA 02115.



July 9, 1986.

Dr. Joshua Lederberg,
Rockefeller University,
New York, N. Y. 10016.

Dear Joshua,

I am delighted to joining you and Norton in recording the history of the penicillin method, and I like your draft. Of the choices that you suggest it seems to me best for me to write a separate note. A draft is enclosed. I will certainly want to polish it before publication, after receiving your comments; and you will probably wish to leave some of the material on JBC and JACS out of your paper -- though you may also wish to note where your recollections differ. I could add a couple of refs.

My paper is considerably more personal in tone than yours, which seemed to me probably OK for a supplement to your more definitive scientific history. But let me know if you think I am indulging in too many trivia -- I have no great desire to get these little items into print, unless they seem likely to strike a fair proportion of the readers as interesting. Also, I don't know whether there are limitations of space.

Suggestions[§] for your draft:

Para. 2. "It was easy ..." should perhaps be preceded by something like "Starting with an auxotrophic mutant.

Para. 5. "While we were preparing..." doesn't seem to fit the fact that you had already sent the ms. off before contacting me with the offer to have it held up -- I assumed you must have sent it off and then heard from Luria, but you know the facts here and I don't. In any case, my version will probably lead you to change the phrasing here.

Top of p. 2. I wonder whether many people have been in a quandary over the problem of how to cite two papers when they appear side by side. Also, when a method has been in texts for many years I would suppose that citation would not be expected, except for reference to specific details.

Last para. Most important: In your institution Tomasz has done a good deal to show that when penicillin interferes with crosslinking the wall does not burst from turgor but rather requires the activity of certain morphogenetic enzymes that cleave bonds in the peptidoglycan. He might be miffed if you stick with the earlier explanation. He has written excellent reviews on the subject, but I'm not writing in my office and don't have the ref. handy.

A reply sent before the end of July or in late August would reach me fastest at 112 Ransom Rd., Falmouth MA, 02540. We will be spending the middle two weeks of August in Berlin, Leningrad, and Uppsala.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bernard".

Bernard D. Davis